



## EFPI CODE OF CONDUCT

### Preface.

Forests and forestry are an important part of mans commercial and social existence. Wood is an important raw material having boundless uses. Wood is the essential ingredient in parquet flooring and it is therefore undeniable that we have a vested interest in safeguarding the supply of this raw material now and into the future. We also want to contribute to the sustained and increased use of wood floors in Europe from both European and overseas producers. We will support any activity and implement our own initiatives to advance these stated goals.

We are both aware and concerned that illegal timber logging will endanger a secure supply chain and lead to negative influences on the markets for wood and wood products. Illegal logging leads to the destruction of priceless forest areas, land erosion, the annihilation of various species and the danger of future desertification of entire regions limiting the availability of our raw material. Illegal timber weakens the competitive position of legally harvested wood and timber products produced in a sustainable manner. Illegal logging damages the image of wood in the eyes of the buying public.

We acknowledge therefore that a problem exists which needs to be tackled and tackled urgently while finding it difficult to quantify the scope of the problem due to the lack of verifiable information.

From the obvious and understandable position of self interest we want to contribute to the stamping out of illegal logging and illegal trading. We feel these goals have the best opportunities for success with a combination of national measures in the country of origin and the trade in certified wood.

Additionally we think that a voluntary statement of commitment would add an effective contribution to the task of keeping illegal wood parquet out of the European market. We feel this will show our support for the policy of the European Commission for sustained forest development and for an increase in the use of timber within the framework of the FLEGT-plan of the European Union.

Within this code of conduct we will use as our definitions the following description for illegally logged timber and illegal timber products;

1. The logging of and trading in timber varieties which are protected by national or international law (e.g. Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora), {CITES}
2. The import or export of timber species in violation of national prohibitions in the country of origin, as well as national and international laws and regulations.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PARQUET IMPORTERS





3. The import or export of timber or timber products in contravention of any national forest laws in the country of origin, nature conservation laws and any relevant implementing regulations.

In doing, so we take on the self-imposed task to make an active contribution to the exclusion of the import and the distributive trade of wood parquet derived from illegally logged timber on the European market.

### **Code of Conduct**

The members associated in European Federation of Parquet Importers (EFPI)

#### **1. INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TREATIES**

Will strictly observe the rules of international agreements on the protection of species

#### **2. EMBARGO RECOMMENDATIONS**

Will respect embargo recommendation of the European Union and the UN

#### **3. ILLEGAL LOGGING**

Will exclude the trade in wood parquet derived from illegally logged timber by;

- a) Ensuring the logs and the sawn timber being used by international suppliers have been harvested in accordance with the current laws and regulations of the country of origin. A special emphasis will be placed on purchasing wood products from countries with which the EU has concluded Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA's)
- b) Motivating suppliers to obtain proof of legality.
- c) Maintaining records of proof of legality in accordance with relevant fiscal law and regulations.
- d) Endeavoring to promote the opportunities for trade in wood parquet derived from legally harvested timber.

#### **4. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY**

We will promote sustainable forestry by;

- a) Giving preference to certified products over non-certified products. In this respect independent, generally accepted and reliable certification systems should be used.

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- b) Trading in those timber species which will ensure a better protection of already endangered species.
- c) Directly and indirectly supporting reliable certifications.
- d) Supporting local activities at source, which are conducive to sustainable forestry.
- e) Supporting activities of the European Union to develop the ideals of legality, sustainability and certification.

#### 5. DUTIES OF THE ASSOCIATION EFPI

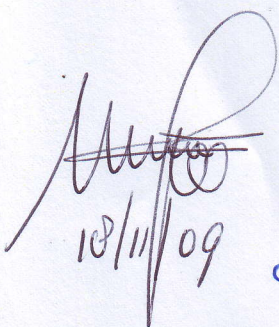
- a) To hold consultations at national and international levels with the appropriate ministries and policy makers
- b) To work towards taking suitable measures and making available suitable resources to achieve the stated objectives

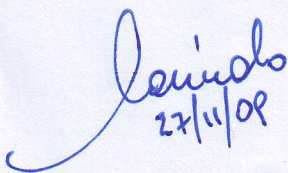
Brussels, 28 September 2009

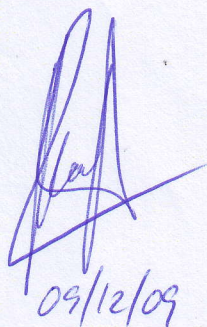
European Federation of Parquet Importers

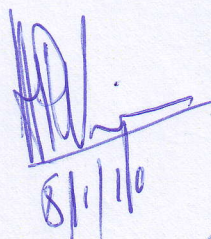
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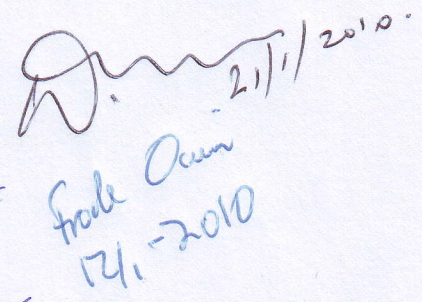
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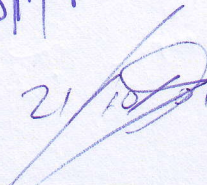
  
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Frédéric Oudin  
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